SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

4th year

No 57

April 1st 1970

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PRG of RSVN STATEMENT on Cambodian situation

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on March 26 issued a statement on the situation in Cambodia.

The statement reads :

"FOR several decades now, the US imperialists have unceasingly carried out a policy of intervention and aggression against the Indochinese countries, schemed to turn them into their new-type colonies and military bases. They have sustained staggering blows in Viet Nam and repeated setbacks in Laos and Cambodia, yet remain very obdurate and tricky.

The Nixon administration, while trying to prolong its aggressive war in South Viet Nam with the "Vietnamization of the war" plan, has blatantly escalated the war in Laos, repeatedly encroached upon the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and seeking by all means to undermine the militant solidarity among the Indochinese peoples.

Especially since early March 1970, the henchmen of the US imperialists in Cambodia headed by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak have whipped up a frenzied campaign against the Vietnamese people, sown enmity between the two peoples, and colluded with the Saigon puppet administration in opposing the resistance war of the South Vietnamese people against US aggression, for national salvation.

At the same time, they have carried out an odious campaign of slander for a pretext to overthrow Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, an outstanding politician who has resolutely defended the independence, peace, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders, has persisted in the policy of solidarity, friendship and mutual assistance among the Indochinese peoples and actively supported the South Vietnamese people in their resistance to the US aggression. The correct and clearsighted policy pursued by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk made it possible for Cambodia to live in independence and peace and heighten day by day her position in the international arena.

It is obvious that the US imperialists and the coup makers' group in Cambodia are betraying the vital interests of the Khmer people, sabotaging the solidarity and friendship among the peoples of the three Indochinese countries, opposing the war of resistance of the people in South Viet Nam and Laos against US aggression, for national salvation, scheming to turn Cambodia into a US military base and new-type colony, intensifying and expanding the aggressive war to the whole of Indochina, in furtherance of the so-called "Asian doctrine" of making

(Continued on page 8)

Miss Kim Chau, aid-nurse of the ambulance C. 107, in the liberated zone

Sketch by Ha Quang

editorial

US aggression in South Viet Nam, a crime of genocide tolling the knell of US colonialism (Page 4)

The two main components of "vietnamization" (Page 2)

We warmly welcome Samdech Sihanouk's policy for national salvation... (Page 8)

The two main components of "Vietnamization"

MR. Nixon spoke at length of his "Vietnamization" program in the Viet Nam part of his Feb. 18 report. He and his advisers regarded "Vietnamization" as the gist of their Viet Nam policy, since, as the US President put it, it was not only a program to "provide physical security" in Viet Nam and "extend the authority" of the Saigon puppet regime, but also "a spur to negotiations". Mr Nixon and the White House planners pinned much hope on "Vietnamization" as the way out for the US in this tunnel with no end in sight of their war of aggression in Viet Nam.

But this was only a fantastic hope. Facts in the past year of the implementation of "Vietnamization" have shown that the program is only to prolong the war and as such it can only land the Nixon administration into an impasse.

In his report, the US President said that his Vietnamization program had two components : the strengthening of the puppet army in numbers and equipment, and the extension of "pacification".

To strengthen the puppet army is by no means a novelty. As a seasoned aggressor, US imperialism has meticulously examined the low cost of a local army in comparison with a US expeditionary corps : a native soldier costs only the one-twenty fifth of the money required by a GI. Moreover, the use of native troops in the furtherance of aggressive aims would help the US conceal its crimes and its true colours as a neo-colonialist. That is why the US has always laid stress on the building of a puppet army, when it stood by the French colonialists and especially when it carried out its own "special war" in South Viet Nam.

But no victory was secured by the US with the help of puppet troops. On the contrary the latter became more and more tottering as the US "special war" strategy was coming to a flop. This precisely forced the US to massively commit its own troops to a "limited war" against the South Vietnamese people. The sending of US combat troops was then aimed primarily at replacing the puppet mercenaries on the battlefield and concurrently at providing a prop for the latter to stand again on their own feet. However the "limited war" strategy in which both American and puppet troops had their share ended in complete fiasco. Mr. Johnnson had to withdraw from the presidential race. Mr. Nixon was elected to the Presidency at a time when the US was facing defeat in Viet Nam, isolation in the world and firm opposition from popular masses at home. It was in such conditions that the new President groped for a way out.

Promises were profusely given by him in his electioneering campaign that peace would be restored in Viet Nam within 6 months but right in the political platform of his Republican Party. Mr. Nixon spoke of "de-Americanization" — the initial name for "Vietnamization" — a program of which the beefing up of puppet troops constituted one of the two main components.

IN implementation of his program, the new White House inmate outlined a plan to set up two new puppet divisions in 1969 so as to raise the puppet troop strength from 550,000 to approximately 800,000. A parallel reequipment with more and up-to-date weapons was also contemplated for the Saigon army, which would finally result — in US planners' mind — in a strengthening of the puppet troops, enabling them to fulfil side by side with US combat troops their inglorious duty of continuing the US war of aggression to maintain the US neo-colonialist rule and perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam. The US would then be in a position to pull out part of its forces, thereby reducing its difficulties, especially in terms of casualties and war expenditures, and to placate in this way US and world opinion.

The realities of the past year however did not meet US expectations. In spite of all crafty and ruthless draft measures resorted to by the US-puppets, the puppet troop strength showed only a very small rise, and on paper at that — again of approximately 50,000 only — indeed the numerical increase is no easy matter for the puppet army at a moment when the US is suffering heavy setbacks, when its true colours as an aggressor are becoming transparent and the area under US-puppet control is shrinking with every passing day.

As far as the reequipment of the puppet army is concerned, the US also got caught in a sea of difficulties. It is true that it has a huge potential in modern war materials and weapons to supply the puppet troops with and, as a matter of fact, in the past year it transferred to the puppets a number of aircraft, war ships, cannons and other equipment for ground troops. But realities have demonstrated that the puppets have neither the capabilities nor facilities to make use of what the US gives them. Consequently although the US hoped that a strong equipment — weapons, aircraft and war boats — would bolster up the morale of puppet troops, this never came true. Because of its sinking morale, the puppet army was unable to make the most of US up-to-date weaponry.

So, the beefing up and the supply of new equipment entailed no notable reinforcement of a dejected army whose morale was at an all time low, especially when its mainstay — the US expeditionary troops — was forced to make gradual withdrawals from South Viet Nam. And as such, the "Vietnamization" program provided no help for the US to get out of the muddy path of its tragic war of aggression.

A second component of the "Vietnamization" program is "pacification". The "criteria" fixed were the establishment of an "adequate defence" and "a fully functioning government resident in the hamlet 24 hours a day". What Nixon aimed at was to cut off the "fish-water" relations between the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, so as to isolate the liberation people's armed forces, to limit and eventually to remove the source of their supply in manpower and material needs, to force them in to battles of their adversaries' choice and finally to wipe them out.

In the course of the past year, the US imperialists carried out "pacification" in a number of key areas in South Viet Nam such as the Mekong Delta, some provinces in Central Trung Bo, the areas around Saigon and Da Nang, etc.

They committed slaughters and massacres whose degree of barbarity surpassed by far the atrocities associated with the name of Hitler at Oradour and Lidice. Progressive mankind has now learned of the heinous crimes of GI's at Son My, Kong H'Ring, Ba Lang An, Thang Binh, Que Son, Khanh Lam etc. Civilian blood was ruthlessly shed, entire hamlets and villages were razed, tens of thousands of people were incapacitated or poisoned. But all this did not mean that the goals of US "pacification" were attained. If the walls of US-puppets narrow cells are unable to shut up the South Vietnamese people's patriotism and spirit of indomitable struggle, likewise their barbed wire fences and defence belts are powerless in controlling the people. During the past year, even in areas already "pacified" or still under pacification, the guerrilla and militia forces were unceasingly developing and most active. Regional troops and main force units of the PLAF were still provided with adequate facilities and possessed of enough capabilities to fight off big enemy raids and to put a thousand and one adverse troops, such as in the counter-sweep operations by the people and armed forces at the U Minh forest area, in South Long An, Quang Nam — Da Nang, etc. These are eloquent proofs of the initial failure of the "pacification" program. The US aggressors termed the "pacification" program the backbone of their "Vietnamization", but indeed this backbone is made of clay only. It cannot stave off the complete flop of the US policy of aggression in South Viet Nam now relabelled "Vietnamization".

The program to "Vietnamize" the war is decidedly neither a nostrum, nor a palliative for the US-puppets in their present predicament. The Nixon administration has hoped to use the "Vietnamization" program to put off the day of US total defeat in South Viet Nam. But in the development of the situation in South Viet Nam by no means depends upon the aggressors' calculations. No matter how and to what level of atrocity they will obstinately step up the war, Mr Nixon and his associates will not be able to save the US from its doom. Their dark schemes may be labelled "de-Americanisation" or "Vietnamization" but facts have proved that they provide no way out for the mulish, blinded and heartless US aggressors.

THIEN LY

Nixon style "Vietnamization"
(Cartoon from American and Czechoslovak new papers)

Dear readers,

TO meet the wishes of many of our readers who want to acquaint themselves better with South Viet Nam and following their suggestions, three issues of SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE will be published each month on the 10th, 20th, 30th.

We should like to receive criticisms and suggestions from our readers and also articles, pictures, photos... concerning the world movement to support the South Vietnamese people's struggle against the US aggressors.

We take this opportunity to extend to all our readers our best greetings and express to them our militant solidarity.

Tax hike Rice shortage

Inflation, shortage of rice, price rise, heavy taxes are looming large over the people living in the towns and enemy-controlled areas.

The increase in "austerity" taxes by Thieu-Ky-Khiem not only has made life harder for the townsfolk but also caused great troubles to traders and industrialists in South Viet Nam. These taxes bring in each year for the ruling clique from 40 to 50 billion piastres. They are also amending existing taxes and instituting new "austerity" taxes.

Moreover, they directly hit at the people by exhorbitantly raising the prices of rice, other foodstuffs and various commodities.

Mr" Vo Van Phat, chairman of the "Economic Commission" of the Saigon rubber stamp "Lower House" said: "The population are fed up with the austerity taxes. Now as the living cost is rising sky high, surely the wage-earners are at the end of their tether". The Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique is contemplating a new tax affecting members of the liberal professions such as journalists, doctors, private school teachers and others like writers, artists, musicians, waiters and waitresses.

The above tax, the Saigon Ministry of finances announced is also to be paid by all categories of drivers.

Parallel to the tax lift, rice prices are shooting up in Hue city and throughout Thua Thien province where a 46 kg bag now costs 2,880 Saigon dongs instead of 1,200 some time earlier. Such necessities as sugar, milk, eggs and beer have gone up from 30 to 50 per cent. A similar advance is also recorded in the prices of books and copy books.

Rice shortage is becoming serious in Saigon, many Trung Bo provinces and particularly in Hue where the individual ration for February was only 5kg. In several places between Hue and Da Nang people have ground rice to content themselves with rice soup.

At the same time, according to Saigon "Senators", high-ranking functionaries in the executive branch and army officers fraudulently swelled the census of the population or troops under their responsibility by 20 to 30 percent so as to get rice for black-marketing purposes.

Apart from famine, diseases and the lack of medicines are posing no minor threat to the population of Hue and Thua Thien.

Of late, on government orders, the police forced 400 families of administration, army and police functionaries in the Saigon area to resettle elsewhere. Their land was seized. This arbitrary action has aroused wide spread indignation.

Military Operations

in the first half of MARCH 1970

SAIGON AND EASTERN NAM BO

In Saigon, following the strike at the Metropole on February 27 which put ont of action 30 Americans, the city self-defence armed forces stormed the police station of district 3, smashing its facade and inflicting many casualties.

North of Saigon, in Eastern Nam Bo many US-puppet units were knocked out in the past two weeks, among which a company of the Air Mobile Cavalry Division (March 6) in Tay Ninh.

Bien Hoa airfield was raided (March 7), 60 pilots and air force personnel disabled.

The mercenaries were attacked and suffered 44 casualties on Highway 15.

An adverse force in Rach Dua Dinh was assailed (March 7) and lost 140 men.

Guerillas and regional troops hit hard and destroyed many enemy vehicles. In Tay Ninh alone, within 7 days, the PLAF blasted out of commission 62 vehicles, including many tanks and armoured cars (March 3-10).

In Bien Hoa and Long Binh, 18 helicopters were shot down (March 5-8). The enemy himself admitted that *on March 15, the First Cav. lost 6 helicopters in Tay Ninh and Long Binh.*

The PLAF also sank and set afire 2 oil-tankers from 10,000 to 12,000 tons on the Long Tau river, 2 war vessels on the Dong Tranh river.

Earlier, on February 28, the Saigon self-defence armed forces had sent to the bottom a 15,000-ton vessel in Nha Be harbour (Saigon) and damaged a tug-boat.

TRUNG BO AND HIGH PLATEAUS

The PLAF rushed a position of the Pak Jung Hi mercenaries 8km southwest of Faifoo (March 1), *the heaviest blow in the past months*, the adversary himself admitted.

After that, they stormed an artillery position at Chi Thanh, wiping out 52 Pak Jung Hi troops (March 3), destroying one 155m gun and one 81 mm mortar, then hammered at the Pleiku airfield, area (March 5), putting out of action 30 enemy troops, 8 aircraft and 2 vehicles.

On Highway 9, the PLAF completely blotted out Loc On and Dau Mau posts with one company and one battalion CP within one night (March 11).

They struck at A La grotto and Ong Doi hill, routing 3 platoons comprising 90 puppet and 26 American soldiers (March 11).

They erased the Third Paratroop Brigade HQ, 101st Paratroop Division, along with many other positions (March 14). The enemy himself admitted 43 *attacks by PLAF big guns this day, on Da Lat military position - the 101st Paratroop Division HQ in Hue, Bien Hoa air base...*

The regional armed forces repeatedly assaulted "pacification" thugs, civil guards, militiamen, field policemen, helping the population to rise up and shatter strategic hamlets.

They brought down many aircraft: 14 in Thua Thien in the first seven days of March (97 since the beginning of this year).

Vessel-hunting teams sank 4 military transports in Dong Ha, Cua Viet (March 1, 2 and 4) and another of 15,000 tons in Qui Nhon harbour.

MEKONG DELTA

The armed forces and people in the Mekong delta beat off many enemy "mop-ups". Following are their most important actions.

— Counter-raid in My Tho (March 2-4), wiping out 200 adverse troops and defeating 2 battalions of Regiment 12, puppet 7th Division.

— Destruction of Ong Ouy post in Cai Lay (March 5), Ong Chuon post in Can Tho (March 8).

— Counter-raid in Thanh Phu, knocking out one enemy company and destroying 2 M.113's (March 7).

— One company of Commandos put out of action in Kien Tuong (March 5), and another in An Giang (March 1-3): 100 casualties, 7 vehicles destroyed, 7 aircraft grounded.

— Assault against Phuoc Long military subsector, overruming of Mien Ba post: 270 casualties, including 3 artillery sections and one civil guard company No 432 in Soc Trang (March 2). The reinforcements were intercepted: 200 casualties, including one company and two platoons, plus two battalions of Regiment 32 and 33, puppet 21st Division badly mauled (March 11.

Moreover, the regional armed forces also actively sabotaged road and water communications, destroying many means of conveyance.

According to still incomplete figures, the armed forces and people in the Mekong delta shot down over 20 aircraft, sank or set adire 7 military transports (4 in Rach Gia and 3 in An Giang).

Better health service in liberated zone

In the conditions of a very atrocious war, the resistance health department of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has overcome innumerable difficulties to expand continually its services for the welfare of the people.

Its network has quickly spread to all free villages and hamlets. Nearly all the districts now have their own doctors or assistant doctors to tackle both surgical operations and cases of internal medicine. Every hamlet is provided with a medical committee of three to five members. The training of medical workers has also been paid great attention. In only the first half of 1969 the South Viet Nam resistance medical service graduated 100 more assistant doctors, 34 assistant pharmacists and 45 midwives.

To make up for the lack of imported drugs, the service has turned out by its own means hundreds of kinds of medicines. In Long An province alone (Nam Bo), in the first nine months of 1969, the civilian medical service produced 51 kinds of drugs with local materials and by combining Eastern with Western medicine. To make good the shortage of equipment, resistance medical workers have produced substitutes out of fragments of US plane wreckage or shell casings.

With the solicitude of the PRG and the "a good doctor is like a loving mother" spirit, the resistance medical workers, braving all haraships and privations, have had often to cross danger zones under enemy bombardments on their way to the villages or hamlets to give check-up or treatment to the population. In Vinh Tra province (Nam Bo), in six months the mobile teams gave medical attention to 20,000 people, preventive innoculations to 50,000, pre-natal exambination and child birth help to 2,500. Many mobile surgical teams have successfully handled hundreds of complicated cases. Besides, the revolutionary administration sees to the welfare of mothers and children. The civilian medical service has sent its cadres down to each district and village to persuade the people to strictly practise hygien. Even in the highlands inhabited by ethnic minorities, medical workers have gone to remote villages and hamlets to popularize the hygenic way of life and the methods to prevent and combat diseases.

The PRG not only has at heart the health of the people in the liberated zone but also sends shock medical teams deep into the enemy-held areas to give preventive innoculations or treatment against dangerous diseases or wounds caused by US-puppet bombardments and toxic chemical sprayings and to stamp out epidemics which have been simply ignored by the enemy all along these past years.

editorial

US aggression in South Viet Nam, a crime of genocide tolling the knell of US colonialism

US intervention and aggression in South Viet Nam has always been accompanied by untold atrocities and crimes. It is in itself the most grievous offence, that against our people's fundamental national rights and against most essential norms of international law. It is the root cause of its concomitant cruelties.

At the time of US armed intervention, "denunciation of communism" was adopted by the US imperialists and their agents as a "state policy" against patriots and advocates of strict observance of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. The roving guillotine and "prosperity zones" were the instruments of such a bloody terror.

In the course of the "special war" and "limited war", it has been stepped up to an unparalleled degree of devilishness. In defiance of all war regulations a wide range of internationally banned engines of death has been used like napalm and phosphorous bombs, fragmentation bombs, toxic chemicals, gases etc... As for explosives, which include 10,000 pounders, their tonnage has been frightful. In 1969 alone, various kinds of US aircraft, not excluding B52s, rained 1,200,000 tons of bombs on South Viet Nam, inflicted tens of thousands civilian casualties, levelled flat innumerable villages. Extensive areas have been churned up and pocked with craters like lunar landscapes and in many places the routine of life has had to be performed underground.

Incessant and countless raids, "pacification" operations, "kill all, burn all, destroy all" sweeps, real saturnalia of slaughter, sexual violence and wanton destruction have been mounted against non-military target areas, some actions involving division-size forces and lasting several weeks such as the "pacification" operations against An Bien, Go Quao (Rach Gia), Tam Ky (Quang Nam) and the outskirts of Hue. Pinkville, despite all Pentagon and White House pious protestations, was not at all an isolated case, but one among thousands.

Chemical poisons have been sprayed in high doses against men, cattle and crops. Over the past few years, they have been responsible for the death of 1,200 people, the serious intoxication of nearly 600,000 others, the devastation of about 200,000 ha of ricefields and orchards and of tens of thousands of square miles of woodlands. Virtually no province of South Viet Nam, particularly in the delta has been immune from the sprayings.

The harshest prison régime has been enforced against prisoners and detainees: crowded jails, starvation diet, lack of medical attention for the sick, torture inflicted practically every day, sanguinary repression of all actions for better treatment.

Forcible removals and concentrations of population have been carried out with utter ruthlessness, though in vain. A completely alien and depraved culture and way of life has been imported into the occupied areas and has torn apart the fabric of the traditional society.

All the above proves that the aggressive war waged by the US imperialists with more than half a million GI's and over 700,000 satellite and puppet troops and a formidable arsenal of most lethal weapons is a war of extermination whose sequels have been a gruesome list of fiendish crimes and atrocities. The unleashing of such counter revolutionary violence, necessitated by the unjust character of the US challenge to the South Vietnamese people's national and vital rights has been met with devastating force by the whole Vietnamese nation whose stamina has been decupled by their monolithic unity, fervid patriotism and adamant will to resist. The South Vietnamese are fully aware that as long as the aggression lasts, they will have to face other Son Mys and new havoc.

BUT they are not the only casualties of US aggression whose effect on the American people themselves has been not less disastrous morally and materially.

It is therefore no wonder that popular indignation at US mass slayings of civilians in South Viet Nam and protest against the Nixon administration's Viet Nam policy has been running higher and higher in the US. The American people are alive to the fact that because of US aggression their national tradition of freedom, justice and honour is in dire danger.

US crimes in the Viet Nam war have been focussing a lurid light on the nature of US imperialism as an arch aggressor, trigger happy and brutal, crafty and stubborn, an international gendarme with a grim record of murders of American Indians, American Blacks, of other people in Indochina, the Pacific and more particularly of Filipinos at the beginning of this century.

Now such a record is most likely to lengthen as a result of "Vietnamization" which in fact drags on the aggressive war. The trickling troop cut-backs have been amply made good by the beefing up of the puppet army in terms of effectives and equipment. "Accelerated pacification" essentially means more "sweeps" by mercenaries of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem troika, compounded by intensified B52 raids and chemical warfare, encroachments on the DRVN sovereignty and security and escalation of the aggressive war to Laos and Cambodia.

IT is a necessity more imperative than ever to expose the true colours of the Nixon administration's present Viet Nam policy. The South Vietnamese are confident that progressives all over the world and in the US will push up their movement, in coordination with them for an end to the carnage. They have peace deeply at heart but it must be genuine peace in independence and freedom. And genuine peace can only be achieved by terminating US aggression and all its horrors through complete and unconditional of US and satellite soldiery from South Viet Nam and settlement of their internal affairs by the South Vietnamese themselves without any foreign interference.

Cruelty has never been a sign of strength but one of weakness and decay, on the part of a social régime. Increased mass slayings by US and mercenary troops supply an unmistakable indication that the days of US colonialism are numbered.

SOUTH VIET NAM

CRIMES, CRIMES AND ALWAYS US CRIMES

A reduction of B52 activity ?

ON a larger scale and in a continuous manner the US aggressors have been using B-52 strategic bombers against the population, crops and land of South Viet Nam.

According to still incomplete statistics US B-52's in the first quarter of this year flew 908 raids on civilians in the mountains, the countryside, the lowlands, and even areas bordering on the towns.

On January 13 for example there were 9 carpet bombings by such aircraft on Binh Long, Phuoc Long and Tay Ninh provinces. The quantity of bombs used ran to 1,500 tons.

Again, on January 20, 21 and 22, US. strategic bombers made 16 sorties against a single populous area near Ben Het, dropping some 2,000 tons of bombs. On January 20, Tri Ton town in Chau Doc province was subject to 7 similar strikes with over 900 tons of bombs.

Bay Nui area and A Sho valley were attacked by B-52s dozens of times in the period of a week.

In 50 of the 998 B-52 missions a bomb tonnage of 35, 580 was dumped.

As a result, there have been large numbers of civilian casualties mostly old people, women and children; and thousands of hamlets or villages and hundreds of thousands of houses have been levelled.

To cover their atrocities the US aggressors have spoken about limited B-52 bombings and «reduction» in air sorties. A US military spokeman was quoted by AFP on January 13 as saying that B-52 bombardments in December 1969 had been cut down to 180 but there were 239 such attacks in January 1970, or an increase of 62 percent as against December last.

Such criminal deeds are indicative of the Nixon administration's obduracy in continuing the war of aggression here, which has led to fresh atrocities against the people in this region, in the vain hope of imposing neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam through the so-called «Vietnamization» program.

Massacres of civilians with bombs and toxic chemicals

IN furtherance of their "accelerated pacification" programme, in the past months, the US-puppets, through bombings, toxic chemical sprayings and sweeps, have piled up crimes against the population of Khanh Lâm village (Ca Mau province).

From September 28 to November 10, 1969, US B.52 planes, on 34 occasions, dropped thousands of tons of bombs on numerous places in the village. On the nights of September 28 and October 21 alone B.52s in 12 sorties rained bombs on hamlets 5 and 8, killing or wounding 112 persons, wrecking 70 houses, destroying hundreds of hectares of fields and orchards. In the same period, hamlets 3, 5, 6, 7 were bombarded with thousands of shells and rocketed and machine-gunned by armed helicopters; as a result, over 500 dwellings were burned or damaged.

To drain to the dregs all sources of life of the population, the enemy continually sprayed noxious chemicals with high dose to annihilate all crop and cultivation. Only from November 28, 1969, to January 11, 1970, four toxic chemical sprayings took place in many areas belonging to the village. Late in December, toxic agents were spread along Hôi canal and over a coastal area lying 5km long, withering up numerous orchards and rice-fields ready to be reaped. More than 1,000 persons were infected, some died on the spot. At the same time, helicopters strifed and dropped gas-bombs to make more casualties and prevent people from rescuing the victims.

After covering bombardments, enemy troops would land to sweep, kill, loot and rape women. From September 28 to November 10, 1969, they launched 5 regiment-sized against the village. In hamlets 5 and 7, they butchered hosts of persons, mostly old folks, women and children, by throwing hand grenades into shelters or drawing them out from there to be shot dead on the spot. Moreover, they wantonly opened fire at those who came to care for the injured. In hamlet 5, they raped 42 women and robbed the villagers of nearly 10 million piastres. Mrs Nguyên Thi Sô and her two daughters were raped to death; their corpses were thrown into the sea.

In four B.52 bombings and sweeps alone, the US-puppets killed or wounded 229 people in Khanh Lâm village.

Of late, on February 21, 1970, four US planes dropped gas-bombs on Khanh Lâm and Van Khanh villages. Then, cargo planes sprayed toxic agents over a large area 17km long, contaminating over 600 persons and damaging more than 1,000 hectares of rice-fields and orchards. When people came to take care of the affected, US aircraft returned to shoot at them.

Vo Xuan Yen (Thua Thien province) in treatment in an ambulance of the liberated zone, is one among thousands of US gas-grenades' victims.

AMERICAN CONSCIENCE DENUNCES..

EDITOR'S note. Life *magazine of January 10, 1970 published a series of articles and photographs on the horrible massacre of over 500 people by American troops at Son My on March 16, 1968.*

Here follow excerpts from declarations made by Americans of different walks of life on this mass slaughter.

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"As I weep for them, I feel like shouting and screaming for someone to say: Stop! But no one in Washington hears the sound of anything but their own voices making speeches, speeches, speeches, speeches, speeches, speeches."

Mrs. Robert Barron
New York City

"What happened was a part of the American military policy. It was a result of the American policy in that war. I don't feel guilty about it because I consider the government that did this to be an enemy of mine. The anger it aroused in me made me think more about open revolution than peaceful, non-violent".

Ron Milawski, 22
Chicago student

"We have a thousand My Lais every day right here in America. I am talking about the brutalization of individuals in the every day life of urban communities where people are killed by other people every single day. Yet our society goes on its frenetic way with hardly a second thought to what is happening. We are accepting killing, the killing of civilians in Viet Nam and the killing here in Chicago of the head of the Black Panthers, as something that really doesn't affect us. It can grow into a way of life. I am absolutely agonized by this kind of window-shade response."

Jule Lohn, 53
Chicago business executive

"If the principles of the Nuremberg war trials mean anything at all, if America means anything at all, then these men who killed women, children and old men should never be allowed to hide behind the excuse that "I was just following orders".

Truman B. Chark
Conshohhocken, Pr.

"It just reinforces the horror that I've always felt about the Viet Nam war. I don't blame the soldiers. They've been brainwashed or they wouldn't be able to shoot anybody over there. They're guilty, but no more than every person in the United States who allows our government to carry on the war."

Mrs. Kay Hobbs, 35
Oklahoma City housewife

"There is something very strange about the public posturing-the assumption that things were all right before. The fault goes back to John Foster Dulles and Eisenhower, to the "domino" theory and their protestations of righteousness, which I think were very wrong. We have been sending off people to do the dirty work for us, and then we don't want to face up to the consequences."

John Hatch, 30
American teacher, London

"The whole world is guilty - the army as an institution and the government as representative of the American people. I feel bitter about it. It lowers the image of America throughout the world. It lowers whatever we strive for in Viet Nam. I think they will try to whitewash it over by saying one guy is responsible for the massacre when the whole problem came from getting into Viet Nam in the first place. I've a brother in Viet Nam. I hate to think he's a part of any sort of organization in which this could happen and be condoned."

Glen Butler. 21
Omaha student.

"There is no longer any excuse for anyone to remain silent. Our President and Vice-President, the Senate, all should be flooded with letters demanding that the real culprits, those that made the policy we followed in Viet Nam, those that suppressed the evidence of this massacre for almost two years should be exposed for what they are."

Mrs Julia Thomason
The Bronx.

"We as a people are also on trial and should not try to placate our conscience by scapegoating any or all of those directly connected with alleged act. Every German I met right after the Second World War said he fought on the Russian front and Hitler was to blame for everything. If the My Lai massacre proves to be true, it will be further evidence of what this war is doing to all of us, not just the soldiers."

Mark Hatfield
US senator, Oregon.

AN 'ISOLATED INCIDENT'... AMONG SO MANY OTHERS

ALMOST a year has elapsed since the day-March 29, 1969—when Richard Lee Ridendour, a 23-year-old Viet Nam veteran, sent from California the following letter to Richard Nixon:

Mr President,

"I am a fervent citizen and do not want to stain my combat comrades in the eyes of the world. I have not witnessed the facts that I now bring to your knowledge, and for quite a time I did not believe they were true. First I got some information from my friend Gruver with whom I had acquainted in Hawai. But the following months I got other confirmations. I do not know exactly what had happened in the 'Pinkville' village in March 1968, but I am convinced that something sinister and bloody had occurred there" (retranslated from the French).

Copies of the letter were addressed to Secretary of State W. Rogers and Defence Secretary M. Laird. Neither Mr Nixon, nor Messrs Rogers and Laird answered.

However, that 'something sinister and bloody was the object of a denunciation made public a year before Ridendour's letter had been sent to the addresses—on the 25th of March, 1968—by the Trung Bo (South Viet Nam) Committee for Denunciation of US Crimes. It was the savage killing of some 500 people of a village called Son My, in Quang Ngai province, South Viet Nam, said the communique issued by the Committee.

Then, also in 1968, in course of the Study Days held in late June and early July in Paris by the International Information Centre for the Denunciation of War Crimes, Mrs Truong Thi Hue, Deputy Secretary General of the South Viet Nam Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and their Henchmen's Crimes, submitted a report, part of which reads as follows:

"On March 1968, American troops launched a 'mop-up' against the villages of Son Mi, Son Quang, Son Hao and Son Hoa in Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province. Wherever they went, they burnt down dwellings, massacred people, raped women, and plundered and destroyed the people's property. *In Son My village, more particularly, they killed more than 500 civilians.*

"The American murderers used most barbarous methods: they assembled some hundred people and cut them down with machine-gun fire, and herded many others into houses into which they tossed hand grenades to set them afire. Children were thrown into the fire or stabbed to death with daggers at their mothers' breasts." (Excerpt from *Viet Nam* 68, published by the International Information Centre for the Denunciation of War Crimes, p.p. 131 and 132).

News came later on that the day following the mass slaughter, US military communiques mentioned 'fighting' and the number of 'enemy soldiers killed' in Son My. For example, according to the London *Times* of March 17, 1968, which quoted a UPI dispatch, an army communique had been released the same day, saying: Jungle warriors, together with artillery and helicopter support hit the village of My Lai early yesterday (March 16) morning. Contacts throughout the morning and early afternoon resulted in 128 enemy troops killed, 13 suspects detained and three weapons captured.

Twenty months had gone by nevertheless, before the case was brought to public knowledge in the United States and the world—this time with a profusion of details, and horrors and atrocities which stunned humanity.

CALLEY: A SCAPEGOAT

IT was only after the atrocities had been unveiled that Laird declared himself "horrified", while Nixon stated that an incident such as that alleged in this case was in direct violation not only of the military policy but was also abhorrent to the conscience of the American people (*Newsweek*, December 8, 1969). The American President summoned his Defence Secretary and told him to open an "investigation". He acted as though he had never been aware of Richard Lee Ridendour's letter which had come to hand about twenty months ago, and in spite of the army communique mentioning 128 of the enemy killed at Son My. But as the case has been brought into broad daylight, he cannot but seek out and punish the culprit to safeguard US "prestige" in the name of "democracy", "justice" and "human conscience". And a scapegoat is there: Calley.

Calley, a twenty-six year-old, native of Miami, is, according to the US press, a middle class American. He is like so many other Americans but he was commander of the platoon which attacked Son My and razed it to the ground. He is responsible for the murder of at least 100 inhabitants — mostly women and children — of Son My. Hang or jail this "lunatic", this "sadist", and the "honour" of the United States is safe. It is just an "isolated case", and once the culprit punished, the aggressive policy in Viet Nam will remain unchanged. One cannot read a different implication into Calley's trial.

THE GENESIS AND MEANING OF A CRIME

MEADLO OR A REVOLTED CONSCIENCE

ON November 24, 1969, on TV screens, millions of Americans heard disclosures which upset them.

A be-spectacled twenty-year-old, Viet Nam veteran, named Paul Meadlo, spoke on the wide CBS network to get rid of a nightmare which for quite a time had been heavily weighing upon his conscience. Here below follows the dialogue between himself and the interviewer Mike Wallace.

W: "How many people did you round up?"

M: "Well, there was about 40 to 45 people that we gathered in the centre of the village. We placed them in there. It was like a little island".

W: "What kind of people — men, women, children?"

M: "Men, women, children".

W: Babies?"

M: "Babies. We made them squat down, and Lieutenant Calley came over and said: "You know what to do with them, don't you?", said "Yes". So I took it for granted that he just wanted us to watch them. He left and came back about ten minutes later and said: "How come, you ain't killed them yet?" I told him: "I didn't think you want us to kill them, that you just wanted us to guard them". He said: "No, I want them dead...." He told me to start shooting. So I started shooting. I emptied about four clips into the group."

W: "How many people did you kill?"

M: "May be fifteen or twenty."

Meadlo was the first US soldier to admit publicly that he took part in the atrocity. He did so to relieve his conscience. "I still dream about it" he said; "I see the women and children in my sights, mothers were hugging their children, but we kept on firing... Well, we kept on firing. It's been on my conscience, and it's going to stay on my conscience for the rest of my life."

Meadlo's mother explained her son's appearance on TV: "He has tried to get it out of his conscience since he has been back from Viet Nam".

The day after the murder Meadlo stepped on a landmine and lost a foot. "God punished me" he said.

Thus, for the first time, there was no more doubt about American atrocities at Son My. For, following Meadlo's confession, others GIs who had been involved in the slaughter made confessions on TV or to the press. Vernando Simson, for instance, when addressing millions of TV viewers, said, "I killed ten people at Son My." Not counting Haeberle's photographs which have been reprinted by newspapers all over the world.

THE MEANING OF A CRIME

THROUGHOUT December last year, most of the American and pro-US western papers strove to explain away the American crime at Son My. The problem for them was to prove that this piece of madness was "understandable". American and western psychiatrists inferred that it was 'fear, rancour and hatred' which made the GI a monster. Fear, because the GI is surrounded by an invisible enemy who strikes when he chooses, and finds himself in the midst of a hostile people, everyone of whom — a man, a woman or a child — is an eventual 'Vietcong'. For the GI the Viet Nam war means death in any place. Leaving his country for South Viet Nam as a "saviour", a "defender of liberty", he feels frustrated by the hostility of an entire people who look upon him as an aggressor, as one who is at the bottom of all their misfortunes. That is what enrages him and, in the long range, his nerves crack. He is afraid, gets enraged, hates and, hence, kills. He kills for the sake of killing.

Such is the "explanation".

But such an explanation supplied by the *Time* among other papers, runs the risk of proving the inevitability of American atrocities, for US troops have never taken the PLAF by surprise and the Vietnamese people cannot but regard the GI as an aggressor. Then the US enterprise undertaken in the name of "liberty" is doomed to failure, having no other meaning than massacre. Very relevantly the *Daily Mirror* (Nov. 26, 1969) commented: "What has happened at Pinkwille, is that Americans have lost faith in the war. A war in which people have lost faith — as the Americans have lost faith in Viet Nam — is a war that is lost." And the paper added: "It is a war that must be ended. That is the harsh and inevitable reality that President Nixon has to face".

THE REAL CULPRIT

To date, however, this has never been Nixon's intention. This aggressive war with countless Son Mys he means to carry on. But unassailable logic makes him and his associates in the White House and the Pentagon, who are generating monsters like Calley and others, the real culprits. It is up to the American people and the world's peoples to bring in the final verdict.

HO MAI BAC

In brief

*** On March 7, over 600 delegates of power and water station workers throughout South Viet Nam held a conference in which they demanded wage-lift and high living cost extra bonuses.**

These delegates requested that employers live up to joint agreements in enterprises and pays 170 per cent of high living cost bonuses and pensions according to each bracket to which the workers belonged.

*** On March 3, over 300 workers and employees of USAID in Saigon staged a general strike for wage-claim and allowances for dismissed workers.**

*** On the morning of March, delegates of over 3,000 lumber-jacks called an emergency meeting in Saigon to protest against the suppression of the granting of forest exploitation licenses, which threw 3,000 lumber-men into the streets.**

An ad hoc committee of action was set up and a letter of protest sent to the US-puppet authorities on this occasion.

*** In Chau Doc last February, about a thousand workers of the Nui Sam granite-quarry mounted an action at the provincial capital against sacking and unemployment. Employees of the distillery VFL demanded a pay rise to cope with skyrocketting prices. Also at Chau Doc town the workers of the rice-husking mill asked for a free Sunday or double pay should they have to work on that day. At the same time pedicab drivers plying on the Chau Doc — Vinh Nguon highway demanded a tax reduction and the abolition of arbitrary fines.**

Twenty-five years of Hungary's brilliant successes

ON April 4, the Hungarian people will enthusiastically commemorate the 25th anniversary of their country's liberation from Nazi domination.

Under the leadership of the Socialist Workers' Party and the Workers-Peasant Revolutionary Government, the people of Hungary have, over the past twenty-five years, traversed a historic path and achieved one splendid success after another.

Before liberation Hungary was a small capitalist country in Central Europe with an industry built in the middle of the last century and a backward agriculture. 68 per cent of the peasantry had no land to till, and the population as a whole lived a very hard life. Millions of people had to migrate abroad for a living.

AFTER the founding of the People's Republic a land-reform law gave 1,12 million hectares — over half the cultivated area — to 670,000 peasants.

Since then the aggregate industrial production has increased 7 times. Now Hungary produces 13 billion Kwh — 10 times more than in 1938, and 30 million tons of coal — 3 times more. In the industrialization process, many new branches have emerged, made rapid headway and opened a very promising perspective, such as the production of aluminium, precision instruments, buses and chemicals. In the production of wireless and pharmaceuticals, efforts are being made to reach international standard.

Agriculture has been modernized. In 1969 Hungary possessed 70,000 tractors against 7,000 before liberation. 75 to 80 per cent of agricultural work has been mecanized, while the quantity of fertilizers used on a hectare has gone up from 13 to 100 kg or over 7 times. In maize production, the 1969 record of 3, 3 tons per hectare substantially topped the world's average standard (2, 27 tons). At present Hungary has 2 million head of cattle, 7 million hogs and 32 million domestic fowls.

The PRH boasts a developed general-education network for 1,6 million pupils, and 112 establishments for higher and technical education. All told, 2 million, i.e. 1 out of 5 inhabitants goes to schools and 16,000 technical workers are active in research centres.

Though a very short time span in the history of a nation, the last twenty years have witnessed in Hungary tremendous achievements that the older generations were not able to realize. The dream of the national heroes Kojoutch Lajos, Petofi Saudor and Belahun has come true in Socialist Hungary.

Those are performances of a deeply patriotic people, possessor of magnificent traditions of resistance to foreign aggression, accomplishments made possible also by the solidarity between the Hungarian and other friendly peoples around the world.

The achievements of the PRH, which stimulate her people to build it into an ever more prosperous and beautiful country, enhance her position in the international arena, and make a valuable contribution to the world peoples' struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for national independence, peace, democracy and social progress.

THE South Vietnamese people share the joy and pride of their Hungarian brothers and highly appreciate their keen interest in and wholehearted support for their fight against US aggression, for national salvation.

In the reception of the Delegation of the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN, on a friendship visit to the PRH in October 1969,... Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee, said: "We have been constantly backing the fight of the people of South Viet Nam, and warmly welcome the NFL Political Program and the Ten Points of the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN. Our help is mutual. We assist the resistance of our Vietnamese brothers, and this resistance, in turn, supports us. In Hungary there are rather active forms of a constant assistance for Viet Nam, assistance inspired by the deep sympathy of the various segments of the population, and given of their own accord."

We, South Vietnamese, sincerely thank the Socialist Workers' Party, Government and people of Hungary for this assistance which they regard as a token of their internationalist spirit. It is very gratifying for us to see that their political support and material aid has proved increasingly effective. We realize that in all the successes that we have registered in our glorious struggle, our Hungarian brothers and our friends all over the world have had their due share.

On the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Hungary, we sincerely wish the fraternal people of Hungary more brilliant successes in the defence and construction of their beautiful socialist fatherland.

DINH BA THI

Ambassador of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the People's Republic of Hungary.

IN THE WORLD

+ On March 16, « International Day for denunciation of the US imperialists' war crimes in South Viet Nam » and on March 19, « National day of anti-US struggle in Viet Nam », people in such countries as: the USSR, the PR of China, the GDR, the PR of Hungary, the PR of Poland, the PR of Bulgaria, the SR of Rumania, the PR of Albania, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Japan, France, Great Britain, Sweden, Belgium... held meetings, press conferences, distributed leaflets, issued declarations, sent anti-war messages to Nixon... strongly condemning the barbarous acts committed by the US troops in the Son My mass slaying and many other criminal actions in South Viet Nam.

On this occasion, « Weeks for solidarity with Viet Nam » have been organized in Laos, the PDR of Korea, Cuba, the PR of Mongolia, West Germany...

+ *AUSTRALIA*: An Australian movement for « Moratorium for Viet Nam » recently came into being in Sydney. It rallied in a large front of struggle all peaceful and progressive forces in Australia, to demand that the US and its satellites terminate their aggressive war in South Viet Nam. It demanded that the Australian administration abolish immediately the draft law by which Australian youths are being used as cannon-fodder for the US in South Viet Nam.

The 'Spring Offensive' in the US

After the Moratorium Days of October 15 and November 15 last year, the anti-war protest has been mounting with renewed intensity throughout the United States. The "Spring Offensive" has begun.

The 75-day-long fast observed by war-protesters in front of the White House started last February 11. From the 21st to the 27th of the same month, students and young people occupied schools and colleges in Minnesota, California, New York, Massachusetts and other states in disapproval of the Nixon administration's prolongation of its aggression in Viet Nam. The authorities, resorting to force, arrested hundreds of students, but have been unable to stamp out their action.

The movement has recently been spearheaded against tribunals scored a tremendous success: the release of the courageous seven Chicago peace fighters condemned by the fascist court.

After such a promising start, the "Spring Offensive" has unfolded into its second phase with more varied forms of action aimed at paralysing the 4,400 draft centres of the United States. According to the MOBE's spokesman, during the new phase which began on March 1 with a convention in New York, there will be mass gatherings, parades and torch processions for an end to the aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Indeed, on last March 1, several groups of war dissenters broke into draft centres at Saint Paul and Minniapolis (Minnesota), occupied them and burned many files.

Two days later, when Pat Nixon came to the Kentucky university on a visit, about 1,000 Americans welcomed her with streamers reading: "40,000 dead" (the figure of US servicemen killed officially admitted by the Pentagon), "For peace, at no matter what cost".

Between March 10 and 13, students in San Francisco and Buffalo demonstrated before the conscription centres of their universities, occupied the latter's administrative offices and smashed windowpanes. They threw stones and bottles at the police called in to deal with them.

Meanwhile, 4,000 Americans of Mexican descent gathered in Los Angeles and 15,000 in New York to demand that Nixon bring the Viet Nam war to an end. At the latter meeting Senator Harold E. Hughes denounced that the "Vietnamization policy", to all intents and purposes, means virtual prosecution of the war and deeper American involvement in Southeast Asia as the events in Laos are proving.

The new phase of the "Spring Offensive" culminates with the March 16-19 anti-draft drive organized by MOBE, which coincides with the movement against US aggression now unfolding throughout our country. In protest against recruitment to feed the war in Viet Nam, Americans of call-up age staged before drafting centres sit-ins and questioning of the functionaries in charge. In colleges and middle schools, students signed petitions, prepared letters, tore their draft cards or pinned medals and insignias on token coffins. Under pressure from the people and particularly the youth, the House of Representatives of Massachusetts passed a law forbidding the state's citizens to take part in the undeclared war as provived for by the American constitution.

First reports from the US said that so far 96 draft centres in New York had had to close down because draft age youths resisted conscription.

The "Spring Offensive" is now gaining in momentum.

We Warmly Welcome Samdech Sihanouk's Policy For National Salvation and Resolutely Support the Khmer People's Just Struggle

THE pro-American extreme rightists" coup d'état has dragged the peaceful, neutral land of Angkor Vat into the confrontation. The March 23 proclamation of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's Head of State, has reached the Khmer people in time and strongly encouraged them to stand up to shoulder together the struggle against the US and its lackeys, for national salvation.

In his capacity as the legal Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk decided to dissolve the government of General Lon Nol, the National Assembly of Cheng Heng and the Royal Council of Ong Sim for the crime of high treason. Samdech Sihanouk has called on the Khmer people to unite in the National United Front of Kampuchea, to organize a national liberation army so as to wage a struggle against the US aggressors, overthrow the Lon Nol — Matak — Cheng Heng clique and restore the independence and neutrality of Cambodia.

The proclamation of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to the Khmer people is a call for national salvation in face of the danger of US aggression and the treason by the pro-American extreme rightists. The proclamation once again reaffirms Samdech Sihanouk's determination to carry on together with the entire Khmer people, the struggle in defence of the country and win back independence, peace and neutrality, in accordance with the aspiration and interests of the Khmer people. In his statement of March 21, Samdech Head of State Sihanouk pointed out: " Since the coup d'état cynically carried out by the extreme rightwing which exploits and oppresses our people, leads the nation to war and abandonment of its independence for the benefit of the American imperialists, my duty is to participate in the sacred struggle which our people will wage from inside and from the outside to erase this coup, restore legality and democracy. "

The US staging hands, its design of aggression and systematic acts of intervention in Cambodia and the traitorous nature of the extreme rightists in Cambodia have been fully exposed before the world public. The March 18 coup d'état has seriously damaged the revolutionary achievements of the Khmer people, opened the way for the US to interfere more deeply in Cambodia and turn this country into a US neo-type colony and military base, thus helping the US to prolong its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and Laos and expand the war to the whole Indochina. The pro-American rightists in Cambodia have sold out their nations' sovereignty, their fatherland's interests and are pushing the Khmer people into the American aggressors' hands. That is why over the recent days, the Khmer people of all strata have stood up against them. Their hostile actions against the Vietnamese people, their collusion with the flunkey of the US in Saigon aimed at opposing the South Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, and their schemes to intensify their military forces, prepare war, their repression and persecution of the Khmer people, their stifling of all democratic liberties, etc, have enabled the Khmer people to see who are friends and who are foes. That is why the Khmer people are resolutely denouncing the March 18 coup d'état.

The struggle of the Cambodian people against the pro-American extreme rightist Lon Nol - Matak - Cheng Heng clique, their enemy at present is sure to win the sympathy and support of the progressive people all over the world, first of all the Vietnamese people who have always remained their brother and faithful neighbour sharing weal and woe.

THE Vietnamese people will for ever be grateful for the Cambodian people's heartfelt support of their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation. The people, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam pledge to respect the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within its existing borders, and abide by the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Having struggled against the US imperialists and their lackeys for over twenty years now, the South Vietnamese people are fully aware of the difficulties that lie ahead of the brotherly Khmer people, strongly support the latter's just struggle and wholeheartedly sympathize with Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's resolute attitude.

In the present conjuncture the relations between the two peoples prove more precious than ever.

The present difficulties created by the US aggressors and the Lon Nol — Matak —Cheng Heng clique cannot sway the Cambodian people who are imbued with ardent patriotism and have a glorious tradition of struggle against the imperialists.

Bringing into full play the valiant tradition of struggle against the imperialists, and standing shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese and the Lao peoples in an all-out struggle against the US imperialists — the common enemy of three nations- the Khmer people, sticking together in the National United Front of Kampuchea set up by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, will surely deal staggering blows at the US imperialists and their lackeys and advance toward complete victory.

(GPA's commentary)

PRG of RSVN statement...

(Continued from page 1)

Asians fight Asians advocated by President Nixon.

On March 23, 1970, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the legal Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, issued a solemn proclamation, declaring to dissolve the government of General Lon Nol, the National Assembly and Royal Council for the crime of high treason. He called on the valiant Khmer people to stand up, unite closely in the National United Front of Kampuchea, unite with the popular and anti-imperialist forces of the brotherly countries, fight resolutely against the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak—Cheng Heng group and their US masters, so as to liberate the country, defend the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

The national salvation appeal of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk has opened a new stage in the history of the struggle of the Cambodian people to defend the noble interests and sacred aspirations of the Cambodian people and will enjoy strong support from the Khmer people and sympathy and broad backing from the world's peoples.

The Republic of South Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia are close neighbours. The South Vietnamese and the Khmer people are brothers and comrades-in-arms, who have always supported and encouraged each other in the struggle against the US imperialists and their lackeys — the Thieu-Ky clique — and the "Khmer Serei" (so-called "Free Khmer" - Ed).

Right after its founding in June 1969, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam had clearly expounded its policy toward the Kingdom of Cambodia, namely, "to maintain friendly relations and to carry out a good neighbour policy with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for her independence, sovereignty and neutrality, to recognize and pledge respect for the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia in her present borders." The two parties have always shown mutual respect and refrained from interfering in each other's internal affairs.

Proceeding from this unswerving policy, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the South Vietnamese people warmly welcome and fully support the correct undertakings for national salvation set forth in the historic March 23, 1970 proclamation of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia. They firmly support the just and noble struggle of the Cambodian people to defend their sacred national rights against the US imperialists and their flunkeys, in contribution to the defence of peace in Indochina and the rest of Asia.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the South Vietnamese people highly prize and are forever grateful for the unreserved support and assistance given by the Cambodian people and Head of State Norodom Sihanouk to their resistance against US aggression, for national salvation.

They pledge to spare no efforts to strengthen the time-honoured tradition of solidarity and friendship between the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples and make it ever lasting.

The South Vietnamese people, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam are resolved to persevere in and step up the resistance war against US aggression, for national salvation and pledge to stand shoulder to shoulder with the brotherly Cambodian people, support and assist each other, and fight together against their common enemy till complete victory.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the South Vietnamese people are convinced that with their tradition of valiant and indomitable struggle against imperialism and their militant solidarity under the national salvation banner of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian people will certainly win glorious victory. The people of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos who are united in struggle and enjoy the sympathy and support of the world's peoples including the American people, and the governments of peace and justice-loving countries, will surely defeat the US imperialist aggressors, the most cruel enemy of the indochinese peoples and the whole progressive mankind."

SOUTH VIET NAM No 57
April 1st, 1970
Published by
the NFL Information Commission
Printed in South Viet Nam *Index : 12.520*